

REMARKS

Claims 4, 29, and 68 have been canceled. Thus, claims 1-4, 5-17, 20-22, 25-28, 30-32, 59-61, 64-67, and 69-71 are pending in the present application. In the Office Action, claims 1, 8-10, 20, 27-28, 59, and 66-67 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Davis (U.S. Patent No. 5,844,986) in view of Bress (U.S. Patent No. 6,813,682). Claims 2-3, 21-22, 26, 60-61, and 65 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Davis in view of Bress and further in view of Brant (U.S. Patent No. 5,848,435). Claims 11-17, 32, and 71 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Davis in view of Bress and further in view of Brant and Baird (U.S. Patent No. 6,732,278). The Examiner's rejections are respectfully traversed.

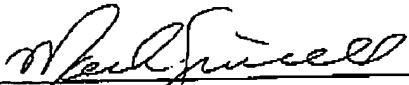
In the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 4, 29, and 68 set forth allowable subject matter. Independent claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter set forth in claim 4, independent claim 20 has been amended to include the subject matter set forth in claim 29, and independent claim 59 has been amended to include the subject matter set forth in claim 68. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1, 20, 59, and all claims depending therefrom are in condition for allowance. Applicants request that the Examiner's rejections of claims 1-3, 8-17, 20-22, 26-28, 32, 59-61, 65-67, and 71 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) be withdrawn.

For the aforementioned reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all claims pending in the present application are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (713) 934-4052 with any questions, comments or suggestions relating to the referenced patent application.]

Respectfully submitted,

Date:

8/3/05

  
Mark W. Sincell, Ph.D.

Reg. No. 52,226

Williams Morgan & Amerson, P.C.

10333 Richmond Avenue, Suite 1100

Houston, TX 77042

(713) 934-7000

(713) 934-7011 (Fax)

AGENT FOR APPLICANTS